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Salt Lake City 41

Local History of Camp 27 (Federal Heights)

written by Kate C. Snow
(approx. 1928)

Salt Lake City was first settled near where Pioneer Park is now located, and soon extended east to State Street. Eighth South, between State and Main Street, then seemed out in the wilderness, so it was at this point that the slaughter yards were located; but with the steady influx of population, homes were built nearer and nearer these yards until in 1860 it was decided to move them to a more isolated spot.

The east bench was found a suitable place. It was near the foothills and just a wide expanse of rocks and brush and had to be crossed in order to reach the canyons where settlers went to obtain fire wood, building material, and where they took their cattle to graze. So this desolate east bench was decided upon as the place to permanently locate the slaughter yards and have the different butchers move.

They located as follows: Ferrimore Little and Levi Garrett, partners, located just south of where South Temple and University Streets meet; just north of them was Jillstone; then came John Picknell and Charles B. Taylor; north of them was William Wood, who later sold his interests to William Jennings & Sons.

John Paul Epworth and George Chandlers were allowed to kill their cattle in these yards free of charge, but to men not in the butcher business a fee of one dollar per animal was charged.

A deep gulch had been cut in the clay formation by the high waters from Dry Canyon about where Virginia Street is now. It was on the east side of this gulch that the slaughter houses were located and into it the refuse from the yards was thrown. The high waters also cut through the block that lies between U and Virginia Street and First Avenue and South Temple, leaving a deep gulch, then joining the Red Butte water at South Temple. When the home on the corner of U Street and First Avenue was built, the basement was not excavated but the wall for the basement was built and soil filled in.

The water from Red Butte Canyon (which is now used for Fort Douglas) had its course from the canyon on down to what is now South Temple Street, this latter street being washed out so that it was impassible. The main traveled road was First South Street or about there. This road also led to Fort Douglas which was established October 20, 1862. This road to the Fort

was not satisfactory, so in time the Government built a bridge over the deep gully on South Temple Street about where the parking at the east end divides the street. This bridge enabled the wagons to cross the gully and was called Camp Bridge. Young people of the town would walk up to the bridge for an outing. In a grant from the Government to Judge Young, it was stipulated that the existing road from the town to the garrison should always be maintained as a highway, and that explains the peculiar course of what is now Federal Way. The water was diverted and the old course was leveled and South Temple Street was made passible.

To avoid the long walks to and from town, the owners of the yards brought their families to live on the bench. Charles B. Taylor obtained a patent from the Government for a grant of 160 acres that lay between the City Survey and the Fort Douglas Reserve. Homes were soon built. Taylor and Chandlers built on the north side of what is now First Avenue between U and Virginia Streets. Their homes faced south. Taylor's descendants still live at this location but in new homes. John Picknell located just across the street. His house faced north. This house still stands, is in good condition, and is occupied by the descendants of the family.

As years went on this 160-acre tract was cut up into city lots and sold by Mr. Taylor to settlers for about what the transaction cost. This growing section was called Butcherville. Water used for the bench settlers was hauled from City Creek near Eagle Gate in barrels, and was sold for twenty-five cents a barrel. Animals had to be driven to the creek to drink. In summer the residents caught rain water, and in the winter they gathered snow to help out the supply and lower living expenses. Two wells were dug, one on the Picknell place and one at Garrett's home, which stood on Thirteenth East, rear of the Hugo Apartment. Water was obtained at a depth of 160 feet, and was drawn out in a bucket by means of a windlass.

Ferrimore Little constructed a high water line ditch from City Creek and brought the water out onto the bench. He built spills first at E Street and South Temple and later troughs about where the Twenty-First Ward Chapel stands. This was a great boon to the settlers for they could now get water much nearer home for use and could drive their cattle to the troughs to drink. The water was carried in five-gallon cans. The cans were fastened on a yoke for the shoulders, and when it was water time everything was filled and saved for using.

At the yards cattle, sheep, and pigs were slaughtered, and the meat was hauled downtown and sold at a central market. This building was located in the center of what is now First South Street, and it faced Main Street and extended west about ten rods or one-half block. The market was

a long lumber building with a wide center aisle that extended its full length. Stalls were built on either side of this aisle, and these divisions were rented to the respective butchers as places in which to sell their meat.

The market was operated by the city. It was opened, closed and supervised by a man named Peter Dewey. The traffic of First South had to go on either side of the building.

Keeping meat wholesome in those days was no small problem. There were no ice boxes or screens. Mosquito bar was used to cover the meat when it could be obtained.

To meet these conditions only enough animals were slaughtered each day to meet the day's demand. When a butcher saw that he might run short, he would dispatch one of his men to the yards to kill an animal and bring it down. It was often on sale before it was fairly cold.

A large ice house, owned by a man named Case, stood about where the Tribune Building is now. If the butchers had meat left over, they would put it in this ice house and bury it in the sawdust near the ice.

When the street car service was installed and the First South line had to be put in the center of the street, the market building was torn down and another one of the same style was built on West Temple between First South and South Temple. This market, while about the same as the old one, was larger; and, besides selling meat, wood, hay, and other commodities were exchanged or sold. Another such market was located where the Police Station now stands, but here no meat was sold.

It was against the law for anyone to open up a butcher shop anywhere but in a stall at the Central Market. An Irishman by the name of Pat Lannan, who had his slaughter yards near where St. Marks Hospital stands, did not like this arrangement, so he opened a shop on Main Street. He was immediately arrested, fined, and his place closed. It was not long until he opened another shop and the same thing happened, but he kept on opening up a shop until he won the day, and the law was changed. As soon as this happened, each butcher opened up a shop of his own. Most of the shops were located on the north side of First South Street and that place became known as Market Row and that name is still retained.

With each man for himself, competition began and delivery service was established. The first delivery wagon was owned by Little and Garrett. It was made from a light buggy, the top being taken off and the box made larger. Golden Guiver was driver of this wagon.

There were no means of communication, so a boy was sent from house to house to get the orders for meat. These orders were filled and delivered. The hotel men would come to the shops themselves and give their orders, and have the meat sent out. In those days of long walks, Mr. Guiver says it was not unusual to have a man come in the shop, order a steak, a piece of liver and some fat to fry it in, and then say, "If you will deliver this, I will ride home with you."

The streets were not named or houses numbered, and for directions they would say a block, or two houses from the Cedar Post, or so many blocks from the Fort Wall, etc.

The meat was carried in large willow baskets. Often sticks were put theough the roasts by which to carry them, for paper was very scarce. The baskets were made by Jobe Smith and King.

When Garrett went to England on a mission, Decker took his place in the butcher business.

Very little money was handled in those days. Everything was done with orders. If Little wanted a harness, he would go to the harness maker and say, "I will give you so much in meat orders for the harness." The bargain was made. Then the harness man would pay his debts or employees with meat orders and that was the way business was transacted.

All butchers were compelled to move their yards, sometime later, out where St. Marks Hospital is at apresent.

Brick making was the next activity in this section. About where the city reservoir is now, Simpkins had a brick yard. Their clay was obtained from Federal Heights south of South Temple. On the same block, William Cheshire Brady had a large brick yard. A tunnel was made underground from this plant into Federal Heights north of Sout h Temple. A track was laid and small cars drawn by a mule brought the clay down for the adobes. This tunnel was necessary for a deep layer of soil was on top of the clay. Permission was obtained from the Secretary of War to take the clay from Federal Heights, which was then in the Fort Reservation. The deep excavations made in this way puzzled the engineers later when it came to laying out this plot for a residential district.

To make the adobe, a large bowl of wood was built, and a pole placed upright in the center of it. Near the bottom of this pole, large wooden spikes were driven. This pole was securely fastened in the top of the bowl, and a shaft put on it so it could be turned by mule power. The water and

clay were put in the top as the stirring went on, and the mixed mud was taken out near the bottom. This mud was carried in hods, poured on a table where a man stood, and with his hands he put it into the adobe molds. These filled molds were carried to a level place, emptied, and the adobes left to dry,, after which they were placed in a kiln and burned into brick.

A man by the name of Rands took up a homestead near Fifth Avenue and Virginia Street. He was killed by a fall while helping to build the Z.C.M.I., and his homestead was bought by a man named Edward Brain, who started a brickyard which grew to be an important plant. A railroad was built on top of the ground and cars came, drawn by a mule, to bring the clay down from the hills above. James Maxwell was the first manager of this brickyard. A large cement tank was made in the ground and water from a stream that came from Dry Canyon used to fill the tank. Then there was always plenty of water available for the brick making. This was about 1880. Slack Coal and wood was brought from the canyon and was used for burning the brick. Some rails of this yard have been unearthed lately when basements were being dug for homes in this district.

Another early activity in this locality was the stone business. A spur from the D. & R. G. Railroad took off from somewhere near Sugarhouse, followed up Eleventh East to where the old brewery stood, on to Thirteenth East over to U Street and turned up on Fourth Avenue. In this street from U to Virginia Street, a deep cut was made to gain grade. This was a little to the south of the center of the street. A high board fence was built on either side of it to protect the road as well as the people. All traffic was on the north side. This railroad went to the Fort, to Red Butte Canyon for sandstone, and also up to Wagnor's Brewery in Emigration Canyon which at one time was quite a pleasure resort. Great blocks of stone were beought down on flat cars and arranged at a stone yard which was where the Mayflower Apartment house stands (South Temple and U Street). Here it was weighted and sold to contractors and builders, who hauled it away in wagons. For the convenience of the stone cars, a switch track ran down First Avenue to S. Street.

At that time an old butcher named Charles Popper had a slaughter house at the mouth of Dry Canyon, and he claimed that he had located there when it was public domain, and that the Government ought not to oust him. It took a good many years and finally an Act of Congress to recognize Popper's title, but he finally got two patents and along about 1890 sold the tract to the late Judge Colborn; with associates of his in Denver, the Judge then laid out what was known as Popperton Place and devoted the balance of his life to exploit the property. First he interested Mr. Samuel Newhouse and the name was changed to Bonneville on the Hill. The site was later controlled by James A. Hogle and many beautiful homes were built there.

The late Judge Le Grande Young owned a stone quarry up in Red Butte Canyon and most of the red stone used around town for foundations came from the quarry. It appears that the Judge's activities in the quarry in some way interfered with the water supply of the Fort, and, by-the-by, by Act of Congress the Judge exchanged his quarry property for what is now Federal Heights. This tract he sold to Denver people for a sum in the neighborhood of $100,000. It had always been Judge Young's desire to build a railroad, and this money was used to finance an electric road up to Pinecrest in Emigration Canyon. This road did not pay, so the Judge again found himself in moderate circumstances.

We cannot find just how it came about, but perhaps the original flag pole got moved a few feet, enough to make a discrepancy in the survey between the city and the Fort. When Fort Douglas was surveyed, a flag pole was set up and measured one mile north, one mile east, one mile south, and one mile west, thus establishing a military reservation two miles square. Then the survey of the city met that of the reservation and it was found that there was only one point where the surveyors agreed and that was at the southwest corner; running north on the two surveys, they commenced to diverge and left a pie-shaped piece which is about seven or eight feet at South Temple and something over twenty feet at the extreme north edge of the reservation, which no one appears to own. By observing the wall in front of Fred Wey's house (now the Federal Heights Apartments), you will see that he has extended that wall to include his proportion of the pie-shaped piece and perhaps so on up the street.

When the engineers were laying out Federal Heights, they ran into this discrepancy in the survey and, rather than have any controversy, they put the west line where it is today, and so no sidewalks were allowed for the west side.

Twenty-five years or more ago, a young man named Alma Katz and some of his associates decided that they would appropriate this strip and make a claim thereto. They did not stay very long. The Quartermaster at the Fort sent down a troop of soldiers with fixed bayonets and loaded guns and ordered them off, and they went and stayed.

By an Act of Congress the present University site was carved out of the southwest corner of the reservation.

One of the first necessities of the City of Salt Lake was a burial place. Brigham Young asked Daniel H. Wells to select a place for the cemetery. The spot decided on was the present location of the City Cemetery. The original lot was 300 acres and was partly enclosed by a rock wall with entrance gates at Fifth Avenue. Just inside these gates was a rock house

where bodies were kept. People called this house the Dead House. The portion of this plot lying to the west was to be planted with trees and shrubs, and was called Park Plot. This plot was to separate the city of the living from that of the dead, but as the city grew to almost surround the cemetery, this space was needed for burial purposes.

The north of this park was used while the southwest corner has been parked and a beautiful home for the use of the sexton has been erected there. Parts of this original plot have been given to the Jewish people for their burial place, and the Catholics have part of the plot as their own.

In an early day the cemetery was a long distance from town, so the big gates were kept closed and it was not visited very often. It was a desolate place. As no water was available, it was impossible to improve it. A well was dug but no water was reached. Later large tank houses were built at the east end. Here high water from Dry Canyon was stored and used to water trees during summer. Relief came with the high water pipe line. A man by the name of Bench had the contract for the digging of the well. The sage brush around Seventh Avenue was so high that it was almost like scrub trees.

John the Baptist was one of the first grave diggers. His home was on K Street and South Temple. It consisted of two rooms and a lean-to. He lived alone, had his home well furnished for those days, but the people knew very little about him. After he had been in the city's employ for about three years, a stranger died and was buried at the expense of the city. A brother in the east learned of the death in Salt Lake City and came out to see how the Mormon people had buried his brother. The grave was opened and it was found that the man was naked. The brother threatened to sue the city. An investigation was carried on and officers were sent to spy on the sexton. One day after a burial they found him with a bundle of clothes covered with brush in his wheelbarrow. His home was searched and found to be full of clothing. Robes were used for curtains at his windows and around his four-poster bed. After a burial, he would open up the grave, take all the clothing, jewelry, etc., and replace the body, paying little attention to how it was done. Sometimes it would be face downward and in all sorts of shapes.

The gravedigger had a large cellar in the back room. In it was a vat filled with water. He would put the white clothing in this water to soak, then dry them and send them out to be laundered to a family that lived across the street by the name of James Chusing. The girls of the family did the washing, and one of them told me this story. When the investigation was concluded and the news of this outrage was learned, the cemetery was live with

people digging up their dead to check.

The clothing at his home was all taken to the City Hall, where people went and identified their own, which was then taken and put back in the casket. The story goes that the man was branded and turned loose on Antelope Island. Mr. Dickerson was the next grave digger.

Indians were feared in those days and a high mud wall was cut through from Fourth Avenue ovef to where the St. Marks Hospital is. People did not feel safe outside this wall. The wall had portholes in it, and was used for protection against the Indians.

On the north bench east of the city was a section known as Dry Bench, so called because of the scarcity of water. There was a quarter of a section, or 160 acres, on this bench that was homesteaded by Mark Lindsay and his wife, Birthiah Saville Lindsay, in the year 1865. They were both handcart pioneers of 1859. The water supply came from a spring in one of the ravines. A garden of vegetables and small fruits was raised. The family lived there in the summer and moved down to their home on K Street and First Avenue for the winter.

It was the first pleasure resort opened to the public in the Territory of Utah.

The boundary lines of the property were from N Street, just above Sixth Avenue, west to M Street, north to Eighth Avenue, west to J Street, thence north to Eleventh Avenue, then east to O Street, thence south to between Sixth and Seventh Avenue, thence west to N Street. The pleasure gardens occupied the center of the plot. The entrance gates were on M Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenue. Admission was ten cents for adults and five cents for children, except on special occasions when Sunday School children were admitted free.

The ward Sunday Schools and different churches spent their holidays there riding up in farm wagons, white tops, or any other vehicle that could be obtained. They would take their lunches in large pans, clothes baskets, or tubs, according to the size of the family, and enjoyed the day playing games and dancing. The street car, drawn by mules, went as far east as N Street on Third Avenue, and some people rode the cars and walked three blocks north.

The water from the springs ran into a cistern, and was piped from there down to the house and grounds. Later two wells were dug and pumps put in, and the children of the family took turns and pumped 150 strokes each, and

in this way the water was pumped to the gardens. There were two small bath houses, one used for bathing and the other mostly for baptism.

The amusements consisted of five large wings, two giant striders which were constructed by placing a large pole deep in the ground and being between 30 and 40 feet high, with four arms on the top arranged so that they would turn around, with long ropes hanging down within about four feet of the ground. A stick was fastened on the end of the rope to hold to, and in this way the persons holding on would swing way out as the arms went around. There was one whirly-gig. This was made by using a large square piece of timber placed in the ground for a staff, with the top hewn down for a hub and wagon wheel to fit on, with four large planks projecting out over the top of the wheel. This was about three feet from the ground and on the end of each plank a box, large enough to hold four people, was fastened. This was put in motion by putting the younger children in the boxes and the larger ones pushing the planks and starting the wheel going. Then they jump on the planks and all of them go around. There were two croquet grounds, and a baseball diamond, and a bowery with a brush roof for dancing. Many good contest games of croquet were played by prominent men of the city. People would go there to bathe in the cold spring water in the bath houses.

Refreshments were sold, consisting of home-made ice-cream, cakes and soft drinks. These were all made by the mother and daughter of the Lindsay family. The eggs and milk used for the ice-cream were bought from private families who kept chickens and cows. The young girls of the family would walk many miles some days and carry milk and eggs in buckets and baskets to make ice-cream for a holiday. They would go many times over to Butchersville, or what is now known as Federal Heights, for these products.

One of the daughters, a girl of about thirteen or fourteen years old, used to make all the small cakes and cookies that were sold. Mrs. Lindsay made the soft drinks such as sweet cider and lemonade. This was sold for five cents per glass. They bought and sold ginger ale and sassesparilla made by the Denhalter Bottling Company, and beer, made by a man by the name of Davis.

There were no ice factories in those days, so Mr. Lindsay had two ice houses where he stored ice in sawdust. The ice was taken in the winter from water ponds in different parts of the city. One in particular was on Fifth South just east of Tenth East (east of the old Salt Lake Brewery). One ice house was built in a bank up in the gardens, the other was at the family home on K Street and First Avenue, and at times when the supply ran short at the gardens, the young son was obliged to go down to the K Street house and push a wheelbarrow load eight blocks up hill, as all the children had to

help with their share of the work.

There were ten or twelve small summer houses built of lattice and grape vines grew over them. In the center were tables with rustic chairs built around, and the people could sit in them to eat their lunch. Old-fashioned flowers grew on either side of the walk leading to the house, but there was no grass to play on. Box elder and locust trees were planted for shade. It was a splendid location for grape vines, and grapes grew in abundance, and also currants which yielded heavily, and these fruits were made into homemade wine, but never sold to the public. In 1872 a certificate was granted Mr. Lindsay for having the best currant wine on exhibition at the Territorial Fair. The early vegetables that were grown brought a good price at the downtown market.

About 1875 Mr. Lindsay built a large dance hall at a great expense, for which he had to take a loan on the property.

About this time other resorts opened with new attractions, and these drew the patronage from the gardens, and Mr. Lindsay was unable to meet expenses and pay off the debt. The mortgage was foreclosed by the Auerbach Company, who took over the property. It was leased to several different parties after, but was never a success, and was later used as a brickyard where a low grade of bricks were made for a time.

In 1923 through the efforts of the North Bench Improvement League, a portion of the property from Seventh Avenue to Ninth Avenue and from M Street to N Street was leased by the city for a playground for five years. Some improvements were made, such as a shelter, or pllayhouse, swings, sandbox, shoot-the-shoots, and a ball ground.

In 1929 the city bought the remaining fifteen acres and have made it into a very attractive park with lawns, shrubs, shade trees, and a good play grounds. It is still known as the Lindaay Park.

Mrs. Castleton said that in August 1853 it was decided to build a Spanish wall of mud twelve feet high, six feet at the base, all around the city as a protection against Indians. It was nine miles in length and portions of it remain to this day. This wall, as Mrs. Castleton remembers, ran along Fourth Avenue across along Fifth Avenue, down by St. Marks Hospital.

Her father, Ben Gunn, moved on the east bench in 1866. The place their house stood is now Fifth Avenue and J Street. They built a log cabin there. With only three or four homes on the bench, it was very lonesome. Indians often came to the homes, and residents were also frightened of the soldiers at the Fort. Mrs. Gunn still lives in a little house on this lot of

ten by ten rods for which her husband paid five dollars. He built a fence around it with cedar posts so the garden would be protected from animals. They planted all kinds of vegetables, but the problem was water. A few of the residents dug a ditch from Red Butte along Seventh Avenue through the cemetery, and on to their gardens.

It was all Twenthieth Ward in those days, from D Street to the Fort. All had to walk to town and to the tithing office, so they were delighted when they put mule cars on Third Avenue. The car line was up Brigham Street (South Temple) to E Street, then on E Street to Third Avenue, then east to the corner of M Street. There they had a turn table. Here they turned the cars around and went back again. M. S. Woolley and one of the John Youngs and Sol Angel were conductors.

The north bench used to be all the Twentieth Ward with John Sharp as bishop. This was the original Ensign Stake. In 1877 the Twenty-First Ward was cut off from the Twentieth Ward this side of N Street. In 1901 the Twenty-Seventh Ward was cut off of the Twenty-First Ward that took in Butchersville, and all the settlers on the bench. In 1902 the ward was divided, and from N Street and east was the Twenty-Seventh Ward.

Meetings were held in the upstairs of Tagerts' Hall until a ward house basement was ready. Ground was broken for this ward house April, 1902. The cornerstone was laid July 4th, which came on Sunday, with proper ceremonies. Services were held in the basement until April of the following year, 1903, when the upstairs was completed. James Maxwell was made bishop and Orson Allen was second Counselor and Gordon Woolley was first Counselor.

The first school was Mrs. Tollet's School on Third Avenue.

On March 10, 1940, the original Ensign Stake was divided. The division was between the Twentieth and Twenty-First wards. The west retained the name of Ensign Stake -- the east end given the name of Emigration Stake.

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May, 1964, the following information was written and added to this history by Leah M. Cheever.

In 1925 the east end of the Twenty-Seventh Ward and the east end of the Eleventh Ward were cut off, forming the original University Ward. The University Ward chapel was built in 1926 and was the most beautiful chapel in the Emigration Stake, and, one could say, one of the most

beautiful at that time in the Church. It was quite the envy of us all!

In 1946 the Twenty-Seventh Ward was divided, forming the East Twenty-Seventh Ward and the Twenty-Seventh Ward.

On february 12, 1950, both the Emigration Stake and the University Ward were divided. the north side retained the old stake name, Emigration, but our ward (north side) had a new name, Federal Heights. The south side kept the name University Ward, and the stake was also called University Stake. We used, jointly, the University Ward Chapel until 1963.

Plans were set in motion for the erection of a new Federal Heights Ward chapel in 1958. Official ground-breaking was held April 14, 1962. The dedication services were Sunday, June 30, 1963.

This summary brings up to the present time (1964) our north-east bench history.

Much water has run under the bridge since the days when this section was known as Butchersville.